

On Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order by Mayor Ruth Nash. All members were present at roll call and it was determined a quorum did exist.

The first item of business was approval of the agenda. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Next was the pledge of allegiance and a brief review of the rules of decorum.

The next item on the agenda was approval of previous minutes. Council member Askvig motioned to approve the minutes from March 13, 2023 seconded by council member Watts. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Prior to approval of the minutes for the special meeting of March 20, 2023, Mayor Nash stated she had made a change to the minutes after they had been sent to council members. It concerned the moratorium and addition of a copy of House Bill 514. Copies of the new minutes were provided to council and after review council member Watts motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was Joe Nash who wanted to request closing Tom Mann Road, except for emergency use only, during a scheduled concert event on June 10, 2023. The event operators will station personnel at each end of Tom Mann Road and detour traffic, except for emergencies. This is a one-time request for the hours from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. being the hours of the concert. He also stated that if this works as anticipated, the request for future closings will be on an as needed basis and must be approved by council. The agenda incorrectly stated the request was to make the road one way during events.

After discussion and assurances that the road will be available for emergency use, and that this is not for all events, just the June 10 concert, council member Watts motioned to approve the request, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item on the agenda was the comprehensive plan. Mayor Nash requested and was granted an extension on the comprehensive plan process completion deadline from June 30 to October 31. Council member Blakeley updated council on progress of his planning committee and believes they will have theirs ready by that extended date.

The last item on the agenda was Building Permits and Inspections. The process and steps required were discussed and clerk stated we have received no information on changes, where/who to submit our building permits, nor current fees. Mr. Nash said he had recent dealing with the new employee in the building and zoning department and found her to be helpful but that fees are very high.

Mayor Nash said we hope to be able to contract with an inspection company and not have to go through the county which should eliminate the double charges.

There was no public comment however, council member Blakeley asked about the house on Caldwell Road which has been discussed several times that should be condemned and removed. Mayor Nash explained that the property has been purchased, the back taxes paid and the new owner is in the process of having the building demolished but because of the asbestos, there is a process that must be followed.

Under staff/committee reports council member Keith and council member Blakeley discussed Historical Preservation and creating an historic zone in town and being on the National Register. The zone gives the town control over how the property can be protected but the National Register gives commercial property owners some tax relief.

Financial documents were available but there were no questions or discussion. Council member Watts motioned to accept the documents, seconded by council member Blakeley. The vote in favor was unanimous.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Blakeley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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Ruth Nash – Mayor

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Sharon Richmond - Clerk